

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

***CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:*** *The Committee will begin this evening's meeting with a review of the Management Letter (Dated June 30, 2004) and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (For year ended June 30, 2004); both of these documents were distributed to all Aldermen on January 14, 2005 (please bring them with you to the meeting for reference purposes). Following that discussion, the Committee will discuss the following:*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#16-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$24,576 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of allowing the Health Department to pay for the 1,024 flu vaccinations the Department and the Visiting Nurses Association administered on November 22, 2004.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 ON 1/19/05**

#15-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$14,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of settling a claim against the City resulting from a motor vehicle accident between a Police Department cruiser and a private automobile.

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#29-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred twenty-one thousand nine hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$321,958) from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding current and future snow and ice and tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 ON 1/19/05**

#25-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend twelve thousand eight hundred twenty dollars (\$12,820) from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of allowing the Fire Department to purchase 16 new computers. The Department has received a grant for the computers, and when the grant is received the funds will revert back to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

***NOTE: Please see attached letter dated 1/21/05.***

#26-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend twelve thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$12,927) from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing various equipment repair accounts for the Fire Department.

#27-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of a donation of a used ambulance from American Medical Response to the Fire Department, which will use it as a tactical support unit and to transport certain special equipment.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#28-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend six hundred sixty-five thousand nine hundred fifteen dollars (\$665,915) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding snow and ice costs in the Department of Public Works.

**PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 8-0 ON 1/19/05**

#23-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) from the Main Library part-time salary account to its book acquisition account.

#24-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of six thousand six hundred fifty-four dollars (\$6,654) from the Elections Department Seasonal and Temporary Wages account to the Clerk Services account to pay the final bill for temporary agency staff hired to process the large number of absentee ballots for the presidential elections.

***ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:***

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMM PRES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#31-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$550,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund to create four units of low-income housing at 22-22 Falmouth Road, West Newton and 163 Jackson Road, Newton Corner.

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMM PRES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #32-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund to create ten units of low-income housing at 52-54 Wyman Street, Waban.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

**REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #168-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen establish new civil fines under Section 20-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances for the violation of various environmental provisions enforced by the Conservation Commission.  
**ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED 6-0 ON 12/13/04**

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMM PRES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #424-04 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$160,273 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the restoration of 66 original exterior windows at the West Suburban YMCA building at 267 Church Street.  
**CMTE ON COMM PRES APPROVED 3-0-2 (Linsky, Hess-Mahan abstaining) ON 11/23/04**

**ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #364-04 ALD. SANGIOLO & HARNEY requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to ask that the City acquire, whether by eminent domain or by purchase, the two parking lots associated with the St. Bernard's property for the purpose of providing commuter parking.  
**ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED AS AMENDED 8-0 ON 9/13/04**
- #518-03 ALD. STEWART recommending the creation of a task force to study and report to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and School Committee on the policies and criteria that should be used in imposing fees for various kinds of city services.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #202-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$273,050 from the Capital Stabilization fund for the purpose of replacing windows at the Pierce Elementary School.  
**PUB FAC HELD 7-0 (Salvucci not voting) ON 4/7/04**  
**FINANCE HELD ON 4/12/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #548-03 ALD. GENTILE, SALVUCCI AND LENNON requesting discussion and possible City acceptance of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2003, an Act relative to public employees serving in the armed forces. If accepted, city employees who have been granted a military leave of absence as members of the armed forces called to service after September 11, 2001 will be entitled to receive pay at regular base salary and will not lose any seniority or any accrued vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, compensation time or earned overtime.

**PROG. & SERV. HELD 5-0 ON 3/17/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #503-03 ALD. PARKER AND STEWART requesting discussion of the possibility of including drug re-importation from Canada in City of Newton health plans, as pioneered by the City of Springfield, MA.

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERV, PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #369-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a presentation of the findings and results of the *Newton North Feasibility Study* to the Board of Aldermen in a public forum to allow a greater number of the public to hear the presentation and offer public comment.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #250-03 ALD. JOHNSON, SAMUELSON AND SANGIOLO requesting amendments to Chapter 19 Sections 8 and 9 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton to increase the fines for traffic and parking violations.  
**PS&T HELD ON 4/7/04**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #432-02 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY, LIPSITT, LAPPIN, BAKER requesting ordinance change and home rule legislation to implement a policy of indexing automobile excise tax to emissions and/or fuel economy, so low-pollution vehicles have lower taxes than those that pollute more.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #55-02 ALD. YATES requesting that the water/sewer discount rate be made available to homeowners who receive Fuel Assistance, Supplementary Security Income, Food Stamps, Supplementary Disability Income, General Relief, Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance, School Breakfast and Lunch and other income based State and Federal programs.

#429-02 ALD. PARKER requesting progress report from Treasurer/Collector on addressing Management Letter audit issues.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#135-01 ALD. M. LIPOF offering a resolution urging His Honor the Mayor to hire an independent auditor to oversee and report monthly through the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen for the duration of the construction and renovations to the high schools.

#33-01 ALD. YATES proposing an ordinance to establish a special assessment policy for the substantial rehabilitation of owner-occupied residential properties listed in the State Register of Historic Places (Sec. 5J. of MGL Chapter 59).

#128-98 ALD. PARKER, SANGIOLO, MERRILL, MANSFIELD requesting an adjustment to the water and sewer rate structure to allow rate relief for low-volume water and sewer users.

#206-00(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$35,000 from Hebrew College pursuant to provisions of Special Permit #66-98(3) and a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between the City and Hebrew College, which funds will be used toward the cost of traffic improvements, studies or transportation programs selected by the City for the purpose of mitigating potential impacts of the Hebrew College project on Herrick and Langley Roads or improving traffic and flow in the Herrick Road area. NOTE: #206-00, approved 6/5/00, authorized acceptance of these funds; #206-00(3), approved 6/19/00, requested implementation of accounting measures to track future expenditures; #206-00(2), the actual expenditure, was held in Committee on 6/19/00 to allow Board review of proposed mitigation measures and costs on a case-by-case basis. (ITEM HELD IN COMMITTEE AT 6/19/00 FULL BOARD)

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair